

forward and do our best to secure such legislation as is indorsed by a majority of the Association.

I have no doubt you have noticed that you have had but few communicating "wall flowers" from this "neck of the desert." I have the honor to be

Most respectfully yours,

J. M. HURLEY, M. D.

The first point raised in the foregoing letter is made under a misapprehension of the facts. The Medical Society of the State of California is "composed largely of doctors of San Francisco and bay counties around San Francisco," but only because there are more members of the profession residing in that than any other section of the State. The membership of the bay counties, including San Francisco, Alameda, San Mateo, Contra Costa, Sonoma and Marin is 439. Almost every county in the State has representation in the State Society, and it is not the fault of the Society that every regular physician in the State is not enrolled.

As to the charge that delegates from other sections of the State than San Francisco are prohibited from participating in the affairs of the Society, the claim scarcely merits serious attention. The Constitution and By-Laws of the Society are constructed on the broadest possible lines. At the last meeting of the Society its deliberations were participated in by members from the various parts of the State, and the one delegate to which the State Society was entitled to represent it at the last meeting of the American Medical Association came from Southern California.

It sometimes happens that papers sent in to the Committee on Program are declined, and for various reasons. The paper might be too long, it might be unethical, it might be inappropriate, it might be vituperative, it might be declined for many other reasons—and it might be declined because it had not been sent in to the committee in time to be placed on the program.

If the medical profession of the State of California is ever to be united, that desirable end will not be brought about by sectional strife nor by jealousy of the attainments of the eminent men in the profession. The aim of the State Society is to unite the county societies in a harmonious whole, not to disrupt. Any attempt by a section of the State to arrogate to itself the management of the Society, or to force the adoption of sectional measures, would be regarded with distrust by the Society, and by no one more strongly than the members from San Francisco and vicinity.

It is true the JOURNAL has received few communications from "wall-flowers from this neck of the desert," but it is to be hoped future communications from that section will evidence a more friendly feeling toward the State Society.—Ed.

IN MEMORIAM.

DR. WALTER REED, A. M., LL. D., born September 13, 1851; died November 23, 1902—A Memorial Meeting held in Washington, D. C., December 31, 1902—Reported by PHILIP MILLS JONES.

In honor of the memory of Dr. Walter Reed, U. S. A., a memorial meeting was held under the auspices of the Medical Society of the District of Columbia on the evening of December 31st. An introductory address and eulogy was delivered by the President of the Society, Dr. Samuel S. Adams. Dr. Adams dwelt principally upon Dr. Reed's connection with the District Medical Society and the stand he had taken upon the subject of diphtheria and the antitoxin treatment, as generally recalling and indicating Dr. Reed's foresight and steadfastness of purpose. Dr. Robert A. Marmon, Medical Director U. S. Navy, presented a biography of Dr. Reed that exhibited very careful preparation. Dr. Reed received his first medical degree after one term of nine months, from the University of Virginia; he afterwards took a second medical course and degree in New York, also in one term. Later he entered the U. S. Army and had a varied experience at the small western army posts. Dr. Jessorson Randolph Kean, Surgeon-Major U. S. Army, delivered an address on the subject of "Dr. Reed as an Army Officer," and testified to his high character as an officer and a gentleman as well as a distinguished scientific worker. Prof. A. F. A. King addressed the meeting upon the subject of "Dr. Reed as a Teacher in the Columbian University Medical Department." Professor King mentioned the fact that at a dinner of the naturalists, held the night before, something was said about Dr. Reed's work and scarcely any one present knew of Dr. Reed or his wonderful achievement. When the story of Reed's work was told, however, it was very warmly received and the suggestion made to start a collection at once for a permanent memorial to his memory. Further counsel prevailed, and it was decided to refer the matter to the American Association for the Advancement of Science, then meeting in Washington. This point was brought up by Dr. King to show how little the people, even scientific men, knew of the exceedingly valuable work that this quiet, modest, unassuming scientist had achieved. Dr. Charles W. Stiles, U. S. M. H. S., had prepared a full biography of Dr. Reed's works (which was not read), and said a few words in regard to the small number but great value of his published writings. On the subject of the "Work of Dr. Reed in Cuba," General Leonard Wood, U. S. Army, spoke very feelingly. He said, in part: "I know of no other man on this side of the world who has done so much for humanity as Dr. Reed. His discovery of the means of transmission of yellow fever, and the method of removing it, has effected the saving of lives annually in excess of all those lost in the Spanish War, and a saving in money annually in excess of the whole cost of that war. He came to Cuba at a time when we had done everything that could be done to clean Havana, yet yellow fever was still epidemic. As a result of his work that terrible scourge was absolutely abolished. Later, in a month when ordinarily yellow fever had been worst, he checked the disease and drove it from Havana. That was the first time in 200 years that Havana had been free from the disease." Professor William H. Welch closed the meeting with an address upon Dr. Reed as a scientist and a benefactor to humanity. Dr. Welch referred to the natural ability of Dr. Reed as an investigator and his hard study and solid training. He said that Dr. Reed possessed the mental and physical

tools that make a fully equipped scientific investigator, and that his clear, well balanced and thoroughly logical mind made him pre-eminently able to handle the important questions involved. He knew that Dr. Reed fully recognized and did not shirk the responsibility of the experiments upon human beings which he had conducted, and that this responsibility often weighed heavily upon him. In his opinion the work of Dr. Reed could be placed only with the discoveries of anesthesia and vaccination, and in its importance to humanity would stand second to no other achievement in the history of medical science. It would probably be a matter of many years before the full value of Dr. Reed's work would be recognized by the world.

The American Association for the Advancement of Science, at their meeting in Washington January 1st, passed resolutions on the death of Dr. Reed, reciting his achievements and recommending that Congress make suitable provision for the support of his family.

DEATHS.

After an illness of several months, Dr. Joseph R. Laine died on December 15th at the German Hospital. He was born in Canada in 1846 and came to the United States when four years of age. He was a graduate of Rush Medical College, Chicago, and later took a post-graduate course at the University of Buffalo. He commenced practice at Peoria, Ill., in the spring of 1868. Shortly afterward he removed to Nebraska and practiced there until the spring of 1873, when he accepted a position in the United States army as acting assistant surgeon. In November, 1875, he resigned from the army. Shortly after leaving the army Dr. Laine came to California and for a time had charge of the City and County Hospital at Sacramento. When the College of Physicians and Surgeons was first incorporated, Dr. Laine was made its president, but three years ago he resigned that position and severed his connection with the college.

Dr. R. H. Clement, professor of anatomy at the Hahnemann Hospital Medical College, died Tuesday night, December 23d. The deceased had suffered for many months with a complication of diseases. He was born in San Francisco and was 32 years of age at the time of his death.

Dr. E. W. Bradley, of East Oakland, died suddenly at Grass Valley on December 28th. Dr. Bradley was at one time health officer of Oakland.

Dr. Robert E. Williams, who was recently mustered out of the service as Captain and Assistant Surgeon in the Medical Corps of the Army, died at the general hospital December 30th. He had been suffering from cirrhosis of the liver and valvular disease of the heart. Dr. Williams had been in the Army ever since the outbreak of the war, serving in 1898 and 1899 as a contract surgeon and was mustered out on the 30th of September.

The President of Leland Stanford Junior University has sent the following letter to the President of the State Society, which will be read with interest by members who expect to be present at the Santa Barbara meeting:

STANFORD UNIVERSITY, Nov. 19, 1902.

Dr. F. B. Carpenter, San Francisco—Dear Sir: If I can possibly get away I shall be glad to attend the meeting of the Medical Society at Santa Barbara, in which case I shall be pleased to speak on "The Preparation for the Study of Medicine."

Very truly yours,

DAVID S. JORDAN.

A CASE OF PROGRESSIVE MUSCULAR ATROPHY OF SPINAL ORIGIN.*

By HENRY HARRIS, M. D.

Instructor of Physical Diagnosis at Cooper Medical College.

THE patient presents the typical findings of Progressive Muscular Atrophy of Spinal Origin. There are several points of particular interest in the case, especially concerning the etiology.

The patient is an American, 30 years old; by occupation a bookkeeper and miner. He presented himself on September 12, 1902, for treatment at the Cooper Medical College Dispensary. His complaint is "rheumatism of the hands and arms." The family history is negative; personal history is negative to syphilis and alcoholic excess. For three years the patient was a University student. During the past four years he has been in Yukon Territory, prospecting about the creeks in the vicinity of Dawson. He was, naturally, subjected to low temperatures and to many hardships, but always enjoyed good health up to last spring.

His present illness began in March, 1902, in the following interesting way: The patient was prospecting on his mining claim, forty-one miles from Dawson, when he received a telephone message from a friend at Dawson asking him to come there at once. This he did, walking very fast or running the whole forty-one miles, excepting a distance of ten miles, ridden in a sleigh. At the beginning of this journey the thermometer was at zero; during the journey, however, it grew still colder, so that upon his arrival at Dawson the thermometer registered 40 degrees below zero. He suffered at this time from general fatigue and chilling. Upon attempting to undress himself that night he had to summon help, stiffness and numbness of the hands having been extreme. The following day he was better, though still sore. After this fatigue had disappeared, he was well until two weeks after his severe journey. He then noticed awkwardness in movement, numbness with fibrillary contractions in both hands, more marked on the right side. At the end of a month atrophy and loss of power were noted. Three months after the outset the disease had developed to its present degree. At no time has he suffered pain. During two weeks in July he was treated at Dawson, and not improving, came to San Francisco.

Upon examination the following conditions are found: Intelligence is very good. He is six feet in height, of strong frame and well muscled, except in the affected regions. The thoracic and abdominal organs are normal. Inter-est attaches only to the muscular and nervous apparatus. The pupils react to both light and

* Presented before the San Francisco County Medical Society, October 14, 1902.